Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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R 081550Z AUG 75 FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2127 INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

CONFIDENTIAL NICOSIA 2461

DEPARTMENT FOR A/SY AND EUR/EX

FRANKFURT FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: PROTECTION OF U.S. AMBASSADOR IN CYPRUS

REF: A-5601, JUNE 30, 1973

1. FOLLOWING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION SUSTAINING TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO AND CLOSURE OF US MILITARY BASES ON MAINLAND, "TURKISH FEDERATED STATE OF CYPRUS (TFSC)" ON JULY 30 ANNOUNCED IT WAS TAKING EXTERNAL CONTROL OF THREE USG INSTALLATIONS IN TURKISH CONTROLLED AREA OF CYPRUS.

TFSC ACTION HAS CREATED NEW SITUATION. WHILE MISSION ATTEMPTING MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY RELATIONS WITH TURKISH CYPRIOT CONTACTS, SOME COOLNESS IN OUR OFFICIAL DEALINGS HAS INEVITABLY DEVELOPED.

IT IMPOSSIBLE PREDICT HOW SITUATION WILL EVOLVE. EMBASSY PREPARING FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD OF DIFFICULTY IN DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, PROTECTION OF AMBASSADOR'S MOVEMENTS IN TURKISH AREA NORMALLY PROVIDED BY PPSU-TRAINED MSG, SINCE CYPOL BODYGUARDS CANNOT ACCOMPANY. ALTHOUGH CHANGED POLITICAL CLIMATE HAS NOT RPT NOT INCREASED THREAT TO AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL SECURITY, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT COULD AFFECT ACCOMPANYING PPSU MARINE, WHO CARRIES FIREARM. WE THINK IT UNWISE CONTINUE TO SEND HIM INTO TURKISH AREA WITHOUT BENEFIT OF DIPLOMATIC PROTECTION. CONFIDENTIAL

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HIS POSSESSION OF FIREARM UNDER CONDITIONS OF MARTIAL LAW NOW

OBTAINING THERE, WHEN TAKEN WITH CURRENT STATE OF USG-TURKISH RELATIONS, COULD RESULT IN EMBARRASSMENT AND POSSIBLE JEOPARDY. IN UNLIKELY EVENT THAT WEAPON USED, PPSU WOULD OF COURSE BE IN PRECARIOUS POSITION. MORE LIKELY CASE, HOWEVER, WOULD BE DETENTION AND SEARCH BY TURKISH CYPRIOT POLICE WHILE IN PERFORMANCE OF ROUTINE DUTIES.

- 3. NUB OF PROBLEM IS THAT THERE ARE PRESENTLY TWO DEFACTO AUTHORITIES ON ISLAND. EMBASSY HAS UNDERSTANDING WITH GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS (GOC), WHICH IS USG-RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY HAVING DEFACTO CONTROL IN SOUTH, REGARDING STATUS OF PPSU INCLUDING POSSESSION OF FIREARM, FOR WHICH HE HAS POLICE PERMIT. FOR POLITICAL REASONS IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO MAKE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WITH TFSC IN NORTH, AND WE DO NOT WISH TO RAISE SUBJECT EVEN INFORMALLY.
- 4. ACTION RECOMMENDED: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER GRANTING DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO PPSU MARINE SCHEDULED FOR ARRIVAL AT POST EARLY SEPTEMBER AS REPLACEMENT FOR PRESENT PPSU SO THAT HE MAY ENJOY BENEFITS OF PROTECTION IN SPIRIT OF 3 FAM 149 AND REF AIRGRAM.

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